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February, 2002

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The Landowner Assurances Committee meeting will be on **February 21st**, 2:00 p.m., Colusa Fairgrounds, Colusa.

Discussion Items:

- ❖ **Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters** - Jim Nielsen, former state senator and author of SB1086, gave a brief overview of the reasons behind the creation of the bill. Mr. Nielsen commended those who had been involved with the Program over the last 17 years. He noted this provides a valuable forum for landowners as well as state and federal agencies.
- ❖ **County Board Resolutions**
Tedd Mehr, serving as Attorney for Petitioner Tom Gross and as the voice for the signatories, presented petitions to the SRCA staff. The petitions were to all involved agencies and the SRCA Board of Directors to be considered in the decision making process. According to Mr. Mehr, the petitioners' main focus is a request of the Board to support bringing the Conservation Area back to its original size of approximately 30,000 acres, to not consider land outside that area, and to take references to setback levees out of the Handbook. Discussion followed with each Board member given the opportunity to comment on these issues. A public comment period followed; more time will be needed and will be on the February Board agenda. Following discussion the Chairman recognized that there is a real need for better communication and clarification on the intent of the program. It was also noted there is a process in place to affect change and a need to work within that process. The Board directed the TAC to catalogue the impacts of removing the outer boundary. It was also suggested that discussion continue at the TAC on further defining the Outer River Area, and its uses, to develop a statement that protects agricultural use of that land.
- ❖ **Manager's Report** –Due to time constraints written copies of the report were made available.
- ❖ **Board Committee Reports** –Due to time constraints written copies of the reports were made available.
- ❖ **Agency Reports** – Stein Buer, DWR/Department of Flood Management, informed the group he would be happy to provide information and/or answer questions about the potential flood fight at Hamilton City. Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board, made available copies of response letters to Senator Johannessen concerning questions about ecosystem restoration, and the possible extenuating flood control problems, and to Sacramento River Partners regarding the encroachment permitting process for State restoration projects.

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Public Use/Recreation Study Consultant Selected—EDAW, a Recreation Research group with offices in Sacramento has been selected by a joint committee of SRCA and TNC members to identify and project existing and future recreation needs along the Sacramento River. The study will focus on the area between Red Bluff and Colusa, but will also inventory public use facilities from Keswick to Verona. The SRCA will facilitate public input into the study and coordinate the development of informational tools.

Technical Advisory Committee – January 17, 2002

Chair~ Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair~ Stacy Cepello

Discussion Items:

- ❖ **Activities Updates** – Kelly Maroney, USFWS Refuge, announced the final draft should be out within a month on the restoration Environmental Assessment. Sacramento River Partners will be holding a series of meetings dealing with public use and access on the Pamma Property. TNC will hold a meeting at the Chico City Council Chambers on January 30th, 9:00 a.m. to discuss landowner impacts. Stacy Cepello, DWR, announced a memorandum will be out at a later date on bank inventories, natural versus rock. They have also been looking at movement of debris in the river and will bring information on both issues to the TAC.
- ❖ **The IRZ and Outer Boundary of the Conservation Area** – A draft “Sacramento River Conservation Area Board Statement was presented at the TAC for review only, pending action and direction from the Board. Discussion was held on removing the outside boundary that delineates the Conservation Area, both the advantages and disadvantages. The Vice Chair informed the Committee he has been working on a project that would have a live link to the CALFED proposal site and that without the outer boundary, a much broader range of projects would have to be included. It was suggested that for current PSPs, the Conservation Area boundary should be used; tracking future PSPs will depend on the action taken by the Board.
- ❖ **Project Proposal Review Process** – The SRCA Manager, Burt Bundy, asked for final comments and suggestions. A request was made to have “Project Review” as a separate item on the TAC and Board agendas. It was recommended that the Project and Proposal Review draft move forward but that the Board should be advised that the form might need to be amended as they move through the actual review process.
- ❖ **Manager’s Report** – Les Heringer, M&T, was introduced to update the group on the gravel removal that began on Nov. 3rd. Burt, SRCA Manager, discussed handouts of a draft project review for funded projects and proposed projects within the SRCA.

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➤ **The Nature Conservancy Seeks Comment on Neighboring Impacts—**

About 50 people attended the first in a series of meetings designed to identify impacts to others from TNC managed lands. The effort, funded through a grant from the Great Valley Center, is to understand concerns and develop ways to eliminate or mitigate for impacts from restoration activities. For more information contact Dawit Zeleke, TNC Chico, 897-6373.

❖ Frequently Asked Questions

Q The 1989 Plan referred to the total area of the “Sacramento River Riparian Conservation Area” as approximately 30,000 acres. Has the area referred to in the 1989 plan been expanded to 213,000 acres?

A These numbers are "apples and oranges". The 30,000-acre figure as referenced in the 1989 Plan is still the “approximate” acres of the area between Colusa and Red Bluff where the River is actively meandering. That area, the Inner River Zone (IRZ), is the only area where restoration is being encouraged through a voluntary process; this corresponds to the “about 33,000 acres” referred to in the IRZ Guidelines on pg. 1-6 of the Handbook. The 213,000 acres represents an area of "influence", where activities related to those within the Inner River Zone come under the scrutiny of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Board of Directors. **This larger area is not proposed for acquisition or restoration.** Last year the SRCA Board clarified the Handbook by defining the IRZG in each of the reaches, and amended language in the rest of the text to eliminate references to restoration in the outer area. They also adopted Handbook language which points out "the need to protect existing land uses including agriculture and structural "hard points" such as buildings, bridges, pumping plants, flood management control structures, and levees from erosion" in all of the Conservation Area. We are in the process of incorporating the new language in the Handbook. The Board also directed the TAC to develop language to re-define the outer area as an area related to the conservation of agricultural land. They are in the process of doing that at this time.